

**BROKEN ARROW PUBLIC GOLF AUTHORITY MEETING MINUTES**  
**MARCH 23, 2004**

The Broken Arrow Public Golf Authority met for their regular meeting at City Hall on Tuesday, March 23, 2004, at 7:30 a.m.

1. Chairman Russell Peterson called the meeting to order at the noted time of 7:31 a.m.
2. Chairman Russell Peterson called for roll:

Present:                Jeffery Scott  
                             Jack Edwards  
                             Mike Rampey  
                             John Herndon  
                             Russell Peterson

Absent:                Melissa Mahan  
                             Matt Brown

Staff Present:        April Parnell, Assistant City Attorney  
                             Lynn Blevins, Director of Golf  
                             Scott Esmond, Director of Parks and Recreation  
                             Tom Cook, Accountant  
                             Tom Caldwell, Finance Director  
                             Russell Gale, Human Resource Director

3. The Authority considered approval of the minutes of the regular meeting of February 24, 2003.

Motion by Herndon, second by Edwards, to approve the regular meeting minutes of February 24, 2003, with changes as discussed.

Aye:                Scott, Edwards, Rampey, Herndon, Peterson  
Nay:                None  
Motion:            Carried

4. The Authority considered items from area Homeowner's Associations.

Jim Killerlain, Homeowner's Association representative, commented that the Homeowner's Association is continuing to be active and support the bond committee.

No action was taken.

5. The Authority considered controlling golf balls flight along hole #6.

Bart and Sally Blann, who live on lot 13, block 1, along hole #6, addressed the Authority concerning fly balls from hole #6.

Mrs. Blann commented that, living next to a golf course, they had expected some balls to come into their yard from the course, but they had not anticipated the number of balls that have traveled their yard and house. In the past 24 months, they have had over 1,000 golf balls in their yard and 12 through windows. They have tried to alleviate the problem by planting over 10 trees, putting shades on their deck to protect the windows, and using 4 market umbrellas on the deck when it's not too windy. They have also replaced their windows with tempered glass. She commented that they feel as though the City has culpability for allowing building permits in such dangerous areas. She mentioned that the problem could be fixed by putting up nets (as was done at LaFortune park on Yale), planting evergreens along the T-box, or moving the T-box to a different angle.

Mr. Brant Blann commented on moving the T-box by stating that 80% of golfers are slicers and that a golfer would have to aim over the yards to slice on this hole. In his opinion, moving the T-box is the best alternative because it would cause golfers to not aim as far left, thereby avoiding neighboring yards. He mentioned that placing trees along the T-box would also deter golfers from aiming too far left. He commented that the situation is becoming very dangerous and just two weeks ago, he had a ball graze his head. He feels the situation is too dangerous, especially when there are people or small children in the yards, and that the liability is worth the change.

Chairman Peterson responded that there are golf ball fly easements in the legal documentation provided to homeowners. He also mentioned that it would be unfeasible to move the T-box because space is limited to land that actually belongs to the City.

Mr. Rampey responded that he would like to see the Golf Authority do something about the issue.

Chairman Peterson commented that several of the holes have similar problems and that the cost could become extremely high to fix all of them.

Mr. Scott questioned to what extent the Golf Authority is responsible for the situation and commented that this could create a very expensive precedence.

April Parnell, Assistant City Attorney, commented that the Golf Authority is covered under all documents and that the property owner is liable if anyone gets injured while on their property. Ms. Parnell also mentioned that the golfers are responsible for their golf balls and are liable if anything is broken by their ball. She suggested the purchase of Lexan glass, which is bullet proof.

Mr. Peterson responded that homeowners moved into the homes knowing that they were next to a golf course. He stated that if the Homeowner's Association wants to purchase the trees to place next to the T-box, or if they could find someone to donate the trees, the Golf Authority would consider maintaining and watering them.

Mrs. Blann commented that some golfers refuse to take responsibility for the damage created by their stray balls and that several golfers have been very rude when

confronted. Mrs. Blann also mentioned that their Homeowner's Association does not have the funds to purchase trees for the course.

Mr. Killerlain commented that the Homeowner's Association would certainly look into the cost of trees and may be able to hold a fundraiser specifically to purchase trees for the course. He also mentioned that it might be beneficial to place more owner signage on the course notifying the golfers immediately that they are responsible for any damage caused by their golf balls.

Mr. Herndon questioned if messages could be placed on the GPS. Mr. Blevins responded that he could place messages on the GPS and would have that rapidly done.

Mr. Peterson commented that the Golf Authority would need to look at the budget over the next few months to see if there are funds to cover the cost for signs.

No action was taken.

6. The Authority considered approval of declaring equipment surplus.

Chairman Peterson introduced the item.

Mr. Esmond explained that surplus items are usually auctioned off at the City's surplus auction, but that it may be better to call an auctioneer and have a separate auction. That would be quicker and the equipment would not sit out in the weather until the City's auction.

Mr. Blevins remarked that an auction would likely bring in \$4,000 - \$5,000 and an auctioneer has been recommended that is willing to conduct an auction in exchange for rounds of golf.

Chairman Peterson commented that he doubts if the general public would be interested in surplus golf items and that an auction should be geared towards golf course operators. He suggested that a letter be sent to golf course operators within a 60-mile radius and place a notice in the paper.

Motion by Herndon, second by Edwards, to declare equipment surplus and authorize staff to sell the surplus in the best possible way.

Aye: Scott, Edwards, Rampey, Herndon, Peterson  
Nay: None  
Motion: Carried

7. The Authority considered possible bond projects.

Chairman Peterson updated the Authority on the campaign and encouraged their continued participation.

8. The Authority considered approval of the report from the Golf Course Superintendent.

Motion by Scott, second by Herndon, to approve the report from the Golf Course Superintendent as submitted.

Aye: Scott, Edwards, Rampey, Herndon, Peterson  
Nay: None  
Motion: Carried

9. The Authority considered approval of the report from the Director of Golf.

Motion by Herndon, second by Rampey, to approve the report from the Director of Golf as submitted.

Aye: Scott, Edwards, Rampey, Herndon, Peterson  
Nay: None  
Motion: Carried

10. The Authority considered approval of the financial statements for February 2004.

Chairman Peterson questioned when the first draft of the budget for FY 2005 would be available. Tom Caldwell, Director of Finance, mentioned that the preliminary budget must be approved in April, so it would be on the next Golf Authority meeting's agenda.

Motion by Rampey, second by Edwards, to approve the financial statements for February 2004.

Aye: Scott, Edwards, Rampey, Herndon, Peterson  
Nay: None  
Motion: Carried

11. The Authority considered approval of the claims list for February 2004.

Motion by Herndon, second by Scott, to approve the claims list for February 2004.

Aye: Scott, Edwards, Rampey, Herndon, Peterson  
Nay: None  
Motion: Carried

12. The Authority considered other business.

Mr. Blevins informed the Authority that the software upgrade is almost complete. He also commented that he had spoken with Mrs. Blann several times concerning the golf balls off of hole #6. He mentioned that if a homeowner calls the office with a complaint about stray balls breaking windows, that he would confront the golfer personally if needed. He stated that 90% of the homeowners around the golf course are using Lexan windows and that is probably the best option. He mentioned that these issues have come up numerous times and has even had reports of cars on 51<sup>st</sup> Street hit

with balls. He explained that it is his practice to inform people that the person hitting the ball is responsible for damages. He is concerned about setting precedence for other holes near houses. He commented on his opinion that he is not in favor of the installation of a high net and would expect other homeowners to complain that the net is not aesthetically pleasing.

Chairman Peterson responded that he too is opposed to high nets because the screening would need replaced approximately every two years and deteriorating netting would be an eyesore.

13. The Authority considered adjournment.

Motion by Edwards, second by Rampey, to adjourn.

Aye:	Scott, Edwards, Rampey, Herndon, Peterson
Nay:	None
Motion:	Carried